

Appl. No. 10/773,927  
AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.116  
December 6, 2006

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REMARKS

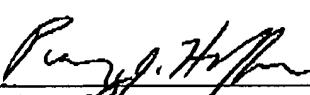
The instant Amendment After Final Office Action pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 is filed to place the application in condition for allowance. Claims 1-12, 14-16, 18-19 and 21-23 were pending, with claims 1-3, 8, 18, 21 and 23 rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Getgey et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,662,856 in view of Eppley U.S. Patent No. 6,099,379. Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph but otherwise indicated as allowable; in the instant amendment Claim 22 is amended in independent form to include the elements of base Claim 21 and correcting the §112 rejection recitation. Claims 14-15 are amended for formalities. Claim 21 has been cancelled without prejudice; and Claim 22 as presented recites patentable subject matter. Claims 1-3, 13, 17 and 20 also have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 12 and 14-16 were indicated as allowed, and Claims 4-7 and 19 were objected to but indicated as allowable if rewritten. As amended Claim 4 is rewritten in independent form to include the elements of its base and intervening claims, and as presented Claim 4 and the claims dependent therefrom recite patentable subject matter. Also new dependent Claims 24-27 are added as dependent from allowed or allowable claims, and as such should also be considered allowable.

If the Examiner would like to discuss Applicant's invention prior to issuing an action, the Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned attorney.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant has placed the case in condition for reconsideration and respectfully requests allowance of pending claims 4-12, 14-16, 18-19 and 22-27.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 6, 2006

  
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Perry J. Hoffman  
Registration No. 37,150  
PERRY HOFFMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
P.O. BOX 1649  
DEERFIELD, IL 60015  
(847) 809-4285; (847) 607-0580 (FAX)

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